The Washington Times

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OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

TEACHING WHICH TRAINS THE MEMORY, BUT DOES NOT QUICKEN THE REASON OR STRENGTHEN THE JUDGMENT.

A story which has been traveling about the country illustrates with accuracy the condition of things in some of our public schools. A small girl who had just begun school brought home a pumpkin seed, and said that the teacher had told her that although the seed was white, the pumpkin would be yellow.

"And what will the color of the vines be?" asked her mother.

The little girl said that the teacher had not taught her that.

"But you know, dear," said her mother, "we have pumpkins in our garden."

"Of course I do, but we ain't expected to know anything until we are taught."

Could anything be more natural or more pernicious than this sort of thing as a consequence of the theory that a child cannot learn to read, or write, or spell, or count, unless it is taught in a certain prescribed way? Children in many of our schools are from the beginning impressed with the idea that it is the teacher's business to pour knowledge into their brains, and that what they learn outside of school counts for nothing.

Sometimes the parents assist in creating this impression. The old-fashioned idea was that children were sent to school to learn, and that if they did not learn anything, it was more their fault than the teacher's. That is the secret of the extraordinary progress which used to be made, and is still made, in some places where there are very indifferent teachers.

Nothing can take the place of the will to learn. No educational system can enable the pupil to dispense with work. When a child gets the notion that outside knowledge and school knowledge have nothing to do with each other, that all facts must come through a prescribed channel, that notion is in a fair way to render the whole school course valueless.

"SLUMMING PARTIES."

THEY ARE FRIVOLOUS AND PATRONIZING IN MOTIVE AND DO NO GOOD TO THE SELF-RESPECTING POOR.

Rabbi Hirsh, of the East Side of New York, has expressed himself forcibly on the subject of what are called "slumming parties." He does not like to have fashionable people from the other side of the city come into the "Ghetto" and go back to their drawing rooms with stories of the dreadful condition of the poor. He practically advises his people to tell these visitors the next time they come to go home and attend to their own business.

Sensible folk will agree with the views of the rabbi on this point. There is no more reason why the homes of the poor should be invaded on the pretext of charity than there is for a similar invasion of drawing rooms on the pretext of sociology. The poor have not many comforts, but if they have any self-respect they count that as one luxury which makes up for many ills.

Inspection by gushing or unsympathetic visitors does not tend to increase self-respect in those who have it not, and to others it is an indignity. Let the poor be assisted, by all means, in a kind and neighborly way; but let it be done by those who understand the situation.

But, we are asked, is there to be no kindness between the rich and the poor? Are not slumming parties one way of awakening sympathy for the suffering masses? Possibly, but it is a very long way around. Every well-to-do woman comes in personal contact with poor people, her servants or relatives of her servants, her tenants, or others who bear a business relation to her, and these she can help, if she will, in a wise and skillful way.

But as for inspection parties which travel through the tenement district to comment on conditions which they do not in the least understand, the sooner they are told to mind their own affairs the better.

SAD NEWS FROM BOSTON.

The street commissioners of Boston are said to have been seized with some sort of inspiration, but whether from above or below has not been decided. They want to straighten the streets of that good old town.

As most people know, the streets of Boston follow the lines of the original cow paths and lanes of the colonial village from which it grew. These, again, followed the lines of the Three Mountains upon which the village was perched. The result is a network of devious pathways which is easy enough to follow if you have the plan of the three hills in your head, but otherwise bewilders and confounds the stranger.

It was left for the Boston street to prove the possibility of being crooked and straight at the same time. Some of the streets of that city curl around the tall buildings as if they had wormed their way between them as a river does through a canyon; and some of them turn sharp corners as if they wished to accommodate the man who finds he has forgotten something which he ought to have taken when starting from home, and longs for a short cut back.

There is no way of straightening the streets of Boston by any Lorenz operation. Surgical severity is necessary. The town would have to be taken to pieces and rebuilt, and then it would be just like any other town, or like a child's toy village on a large scale. No such sacrilege should be attempted.

There always comes a time when the old seems precious and the new commonplace, and in nothing is this more certain than in architecture. Boston has been preserved in all its historic interest. Let there be no wanton destruction.

SCANDINAVIA'S GRAND OLD MAN.

Bjornsterne Bjornson Honored by All Northern Europe.

(From Harper's Weekly.)

The people of the Scandinavian peninsula have just celebrated with fitting honors in manifold ways her greatest writer, Bjornstjerne Bjornson on the occasion of his attaining to his three-score-ten—on December 8. But it was not only Bjornson the writer to whom northern Europe brought her homage; it was Bjornson, the man, the fearless and ever-ready champion of freedom and right and justice, of almost every good cause tending to advance the welfare and the moral standard of his fellow men and women. Bjornson has by some been called Norway's Grand Old Man, but this is a very inadequate appellation, for, although he has reached what to many means at least the beginning of good old age, he still possesses the enthusiasm, the power, the nerve of a young man, tempered, perhaps, a little through half a century of arduous labor, but as pregnant, as susceptible as ever. He is still to the fore in the arena whenever his watchful eye tells him he is wanted, a most formidable, but withal kindly, opponent, never flinching, always generous.

Bjornson's fame is complex; he is one of the greatest writers of his day—unquestionably the greatest in Scandinavia, as he is the most read; he is a playwright of the highest rank, his plays being performed almost all over the world; he is his country's most powerful politician; he is an admirable journalist, of which not only the Norwegian press, but several of the most influential papers of England, Germany, and France, bear frequent witness, pithy, brilliant, convincing.

Bjornson is a great traveler, and has lived in many countries—he once spent the greater part of a year in the United States—and many great men treasure his friendship, but his heart clings to Norway and to his beautiful home among the Norwegian mountains. At Aulestad Bjornson has now lived for upward of thirty years, and it would be difficult to imagine a more delightful residence, uniting, as it does, the charm and comfort of a thoroughly well-appointed and artistic house in a large city with the picturesqueness and the beautiful air of a mountain resort; and it should be mentioned here that Bjornson is a keen farmer, the breeder of high-class stock, deeply interested in modern improvements and inventions.

Aulestad boasts an electric station of its own, worked by a mountain stream, and every place, including the stables, is lighted by electricity. Bjornson's home life is of the happiest, and his charming and accomplished wife has been to him a true helpmate. Of his sons, the eldest is director of the national theater in Christiania, and his eldest daughter is married to a son, the only son, of Henrik Ibsen; Dr. Sigurd Ibsen at one time represented his country in Washington.

Is Dancing Going Out of Fashion?

By CRAIG WADSWORTH, New York Cotillon Leader.

Is dancing going out of fashion? Well, hardly, I should say. Look at any of the daily papers and see what they chronicle. Balls, public and private, dances, large and small, cotillons without number, is what one may read any morning in almost any journal. And certainly that does not look very much as if dancing was a thing of the past. In fact, I have never known a winter when it was so much in vogue. Everybody dances, from the youngest debutante to the most sedate matron, and all apparently with enjoyment. People enter into it with spirit, and dance simply for the pleasure of the thing itself. And why not? It is a healthful amusement, exhilarating, and youth-giving, and I think society would settle down into a state of dullness beyond words were it not for the dancing element.

I do, however, think that the cotillon, as we used to know it, has gone out of date, and been relegated to the "has-beens." That the present mode of dancing is an improvement it goes without saying, as all modern improvements are. The german of some time past meant an elaborate affair, where each figure had almost to be learned in advance by the dancer, and the leader of it had to be a man of executive ability, quick mathematical mind, and a good deal of courage. Now all that is past, and the cotillon of the present time is danced in a rational manner and can be enjoyed by everybody. The favors are sent about on trays, and do not have to be scrambled for in the undignified manner of former years, and the leader can enter into the spirit of the occasion with just as much feeling as any of the other guests.

In fact, the position of the leader nowadays is rather an empty honor, for his duties consist only in starting the couples off promptly and keeping the ball rolling, as it were.

There is, however, while on the subject of dancing, one matter which I would like to protest, and that is the subject of late hours. I think I voice the sentiment of nearly all the men that it is almost impossible for them to fulfill their business obligations and keep up the late hours that at present prevail. The majority of men in society have some sort of occupation or other, and it is extremely difficult for them to stand the strain of keeping to business hours and the late hours of balls and other functions as well.

There is a wail among the leaders of society that the dancing men are so few, and the great majority of them are such very young men; but I am convinced that were these same society leaders to institute a reform on the subject of late hours all this would be changed. Men of thirty enjoy dancing as well as men of twenty-one, but the former frequently have more responsibilities and cannot devote the amount of time demanded of them to social affairs.

I should regret to have the time come when people become so blase that they cannot enjoy the very innocent amusement of dancing, and I am very sure that time is far in the future.

In the Public Eye.

Photographs of ex-Empress Eugenie, taken in recent years, invariably show a profile view. The reason for this is that time and grief have impaired her once remarkable beauty, and the change is less noticeable in a picture which is not full face.

Ignatow, a Russian explorer, made a curious discovery not long ago in the Altai Mountains. The Telezkoit Lake, in these mountains, is situated in 50 degrees north latitude, south of London and Berlin. He found there, however, many herds of reindeer.

An exhibition of paintings by Alexander H. Wyant is to be held this week in New York. There are thirty-six of the pictures, and they are said to exhibit the varied qualities of the work of this artist in a marked degree.

Samuel Mather, of Cleveland, at the recent conference of the National Civic Federation in New York, told a good story of L. C. Hanna, brother of Senator Hanna. Three years ago there was a strike of ore handlers in one of the lake towns, and Mr. Mather and Mr. Hanna found it necessary for them to handle it. In the case of the engineers, arbitration was decided upon, the referee being a merchant of the town. Mr. Hanna made a long and elaborate argument covering all the points which he thought the engineers would raise. Then Pat Ryan, the engineers' spokesman, made his speech. It was this:

"Mr. Ref'ree, the byes wants the raise!"

Ryan won his case.

A SPRING SONG IN WINTER.

I.

Sing a song o' Springtime—
Winter in eclipse;
Honey-bee is huntin'
For the rose's crimson lips,
And Life with joy is thrillin'
To its rosy finger tips!

II.

Sing a song o' Springtime—
The Snow has lost his way,
The violets are dreamin'
It's meadow-time in May,
And Love has found his sweetheart
Where the honeysuckles stay!

III.

Sing a song o' Springtime—
Daisies drenched with dew;
Winds that toss the gold leaves
Singin' sweet to you,
And the angels smilin' on us
From the windows o' the blue!

—F. L. Stanton in Atlanta Constitution.

Unconsidered Trifles

Two Evils.

"Sure and I ain't seen ye since the day before Thanksgiving, Mr. Cassidy, when we was hauled up f'r raisin' a disturbance. An' what kind of a Thanksgivin' did ye have, Mr. Cassidy?"

"Fine. An' you, Mrs. Malloney?"

"Tin days."

Method in Their Madness.

"Here's a newspaper article that says women shouldn't carry their purses in their hands when they home at dusk, for fear of us, Slimpsy? Now what d' ye think of that?"

"De guy what blew out dat bunch o' gas didn't know women ner crooks. A woman don't have nothin' but a transfer ticket and a front door key in her leather at dat time er day."

Effective Surgery.

"They operate for 'most everything except sin, and I suppose the surgeons will get around to that one of these days."

"We operated for sin out West in the old times. We did it with a bullet, but the result was about the same as it is in the hospitals nowadays; the operation was successful and the patient died."

IN THE COURTS AND CAPITALS OF THE OLD WORLD

Belgium an Asylum for Political Offenders—England, Switzerland, Italy, and the United States Offer Similar Refuge—Significance of Czar's Prospective Visit to Rome—A Conference Between Pontiffs—May Mean Protection for Roman Catholic Russians.

Rubino's recent attempt upon the life of King Leopold serves to call attention to the fact that Belgium is the only country that has a full-fledged law according asylum within its borders to foreign politican offenders. It dates from the year 1833, and it expressly stipulates that there shall be no extradition whatsoever in the case of political offenses. Other countries, including the United States, content themselves with declining to concede extradition for political offenses, but do not have any law against it, and Belgium is the only country that can boast of a law definitely establishing the right of asylum.

LAW SUBJECTED TO MODIFICATION

This law, however, was subjected to a slight modification in 1856, following an attack upon the life of Napoleon III. An amendment was then enacted by which it was stipulated that attempts upon the life of a foreign ruler or upon the members of his family shall not be regarded as political offenses, and that no asylum shall be granted to the perpetrators of such attempts. But it must be established that the attempt has actually been made, and the mere conspiring to kill the chief of some state or a member of his family without any attempt having been made to put the deed into execution is not considered as sufficient to deprive the conspirator of the rights of asylum.

This so-called "Belgian amendment" is embodied in most of the extradition treaties between civilized powers. Thus far, however, England, Italy, Switzerland, and the United States have declined to include it in their extradition treaties, and the consequence is that if Rubino, after the failure of his attempt to kill the King of Belgium, had managed to effect his escape to England, Switzerland, Italy, or the United States, he would have been safe.

NEW DEPARTURE IN MUSCOVITE POLITICS

The impending visit of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to Rome, all arrangements for which have been made, constitutes an altogether new departure in Muscovite politics, or at any rate demonstrates the fact that Russia is far more progressive than most people imagine. Through the greater part of the nineteenth century Russia was regarded as the champion of the principle of legitimacy in dynastic questions. It was with that idea in view that Emperor Alexander I founded the Holy Alliance and that his brother and successor, Emperor Nicholas I, poured troops into Hungary to suppress the Magyar rebellion of 1849, and to maintain the divine right of kings as opposed to popular government.

When Charles X of France was deprived of his crown by the so-called revolution of July at Paris in 1830, and Louis Philippe became king in his stead by the will of the insurgents, Czar Nicholas I withdrew his ambassador from the banks of the Seine, and throughout the eighteen years of Louis Philippe's reign was merely represented in France by a charge d'affaires. Nor did Nicholas change his attitude when Napoleon III seized the crown, and it was not until after the Crimean war that Czar Alexander II accredited once more an ambassador to the court of France.

CALLED KING VICTOR EMMANUEL A USURPER

But while making this concession at Paris he expressed his bitter indignation at the conduct of the late King Victor Emmanuel in seizing the grandduchies and duchies in northern Italy, and for joining Garibaldi in the overthrow of the bourbon throne of Naples. Indeed, he went so far as to send the most highly prized of Russian military orders to the now ex-queen of Naples, and likewise to the latter's consort, the late ex-King Francis, as a recognition of their defense of the fortress of Gaeta, and incidentally of the principle of monarchical legitimacy against King Victor Emmanuel, whom he was wont to denounce as a revolutionary usurper.

FRIENDLY RELATIONS FINALLY ESTABLISHED

It was not until the present King of Italy, while still Prince of Naples, visited St. Petersburg and formed the acquaintance of the present Emperor, besides creating an excellent impression upon the late Czar, that friendlier relations were established between the House of Savoy and the court of Russia. The matrimonial alliance of young Victor Emmanuel with a princess who received her entire education at the court of Russia under the personal direction of the now widowed Czarina served to still further cement the friendship thus formed, and now Nicholas II, the most enlightened and progressive of Russian rulers since the days of Peter the Great, is about to return with his consort at Rome the visit paid him last summer at St. Petersburg by the Italian King, who is still denounced by the Vatican, by the Neapolitan and Parma Bourbons, as well as by that branch of the House of Hapsburg which formerly reigned in Tuscany as "the usurper."

NICHOLAS I THE FOE OF POPULAR GOVERNMENT

From Alexander I, or even from Nicholas I, of Russia to Nicholas II there is a far greater distance than most people are inclined to concede at first sight. Nicholas I was the declared foe of everything pertaining to popular government, not only in his own dominions, but likewise abroad, and championed everywhere the divine right of kings and the principle of legitimacy. His great-grandson, the present Czar Nicholas II, more up to date and enlightened, has as an ally the republic of France, and not only allows the "Marseillaise" to be played in his palace, but actually salutes it as the national hymn of France, despite its revolutionary sentiments. Moreover, he is now about to pay a visit at Rome in full state to his warm friend, King Victor Emmanuel, who owes his throne to those popular uprisings, some of them led by that arch-revolutionist Garibaldi, which drove the King of Naples, the Grand Duke of Tuscany, the Dukes of Parma and of Modena from their thrones, absorbing their dominions into one united Italy.

GREAT WHITE CZAR TO VISIT THE POPE

One cannot but feel encouraged by this tribute paid by Nicholas II to popular governments in France and in Italy to hope that he may in course of time see his way to apply its principles to his own vast empire.

While at Rome the Czar will visit the Pope, all the arrangements for the interview having been made by his brother-in-law, Grand Duke Sergius, during the latter's recent stay in the Eternal City.

The visit will be interesting. For Nicholas is something more than a mere temporal sovereign. He is likewise the ecclesiastical head—the Supreme Pontiff of that section of the Christian church which is known as the Orthodox Rite.

MEETING TO BE A MEMORABLE ONE

The interview between Leo and Nicholas will, indeed, be a meeting between the Popes of the Latin and so-called Eastern churches, and it will doubtless call to mind the last interview that took place between a Czar and a Pontiff. It was during the pontificate of Pius IX and it culminated in his almost driving Nicholas I from his presence, predicting to him, as if inspired by a sudden gift of prophesy, disaster and death as a punishment for the harshness of his treatment of the Roman Catholic population of Poland. This interview took place shortly before the outbreak of the Crimean war, which resulted, as history teaches us, in the defeat of Russia and in the death of Nicholas from what was to all intents and purposes a broken heart.

It was this Crimean war which prevented diplomatic relations between the Holy Seat and Russia from being broken off then and there. The rupture came later in 1865 for the same reason, namely, the treatment of the Roman Catholic clergy and population in Poland by the Russian authorities. Intercourse with Russia was resumed by the present Pontiff, and there is every reason to believe that a personal understanding between himself and the present Czar on the occasion of the latter's visit to Rome, will still further ameliorate the treatment of Roman Catholics in Russia.

MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

Statesmen and Their Ways.

"Something" Done.

When the House yesterday adopted the Hepburn amendment to the legislative appropriation bill it effectively placed a quietus upon the anti-trust agitation, which has been annoying the leaders since they returned to Washington after their biennial series of explanations, appeals and promises to their constituents. That was the intangible, indefinite "something" which was to be done to the trusts, and about which so much has been said and so little seen. In moving an amendment to the legislative bill appropriating a quarter of a million to enforce the anti-monopoly laws, the Hon. Charles Lafayette Bartlett of Georgia fancied for the brief space of a fleeting moment that he was placing his Republica brethren in an excavation from which they would extricate themselves with difficulty. He could not have labored under a greater misapprehension, for, as a matter of fact, it served to haul the majority out of a slough in which they have been floundering for these many weeks. They had not anticipated such good fortune, such relief from what was at least a slightly embarrassing situation, and certainly they had not expected it to come from the distinguished statesman from the Cracker State.

Now the Republicans are in a position to say that they have done something, and to rest assured in the fact that it is a something which won't hurt anybody. The only ones who may have any displeasure over the action of the House is that quintet of Quixotian "trust busters," of which the Hon. Charles Edgar Littlefield is the chief Don. It has taken the breeze from their expansive white sails and left them becalmed upon a sea of legislative inaction with the pennant of "Publicity" drooping upon the flagstaff.

No More Legislation.

There will be no other trust legislation at this session. That may be set down as a fact as assuredly as that Congress will adjourn on the 4th of next March. The amendment will go over to the august Senate, and in all probability it will glide through as smoothly as if the ways had been especially greased for its passage. Then what need for further trust or anti-trust legislation? Is there not an anti-trust law upon the statute books where it has been for more than a decade, waiting for some far-sighted statesman to move that money be provided to make it effective?

To what purpose should Congress legislate further when the thing to do is only to determine if enough has not been done already. If it is determined in the course of a year that enough has not been done to "bust the trusts" then it will be time to consider publicity, and the numerous other schemes which have been presented. This is the argument. So Mr. Littlefield's little committee may putter and plan, may grant hearings and discuss measures; they will have their labor for their pains. The Republicans should present the Hon. Charles Lafayette Bartlett with a choice bouquet of thanks.

Found At Last.

Already out upon the search for Presidential and Vice Presidential timber to be used two years hence, Democracy, ever hopeful, has cast its longing eyes toward the little, inconspicuous State of Rhode Island. There it has found, or thinks it has found—or at least some of its molders of thought believe they have discovered—an available Vice Presidential candidate in the person of the Hon. Lucius F. C. Garvin. The Hon. Lucius F. C. Garvin is not at present a national character, although he deserves to be, for he is about the only Democrat who ran for office upon a State ticket at the recent election in any Commonwealth north of Mason and Dixon's line that succeeded in "making good," to use a popular expression. Mr. Garvin, let it be known henceforth, is the governor-elect of the State of Rhode Island. He should be, as he no doubt is, proud of the fact, for he succeeded in overturning an adverse majority of something like 7,000, and winning by a substantial plurality, much to the astonishment of the outer world and perhaps not a little to his own surprise.

Garvin for President.

Why no one has suggested him for the office of President is really a matter which needs some explanation. A man who can carry something, even if it be nothing greater than the little State of Rhode Island, is certainly what the Democrats stand much in need of. Then, why stop at the Vice Presidency—why not name the Hon. Lucius F. C. Garvin for President, and perhaps stand a chance of placing the four votes of Little Rhody in the Democratic column, where they would certainly present a most strange appearance? Probably Mr. Garvin—they call him "Doc" down in Pawtucket—never dreamed of becoming a candidate for Vice President, much less for President, but was content with an opportunity to stand with one foot in Providence and the other in Newport, and rule over the double capitaled State. But, even now, before he assumed the duties of his new office, there goes forth a cry from the national Democracy calling unto him to come higher up, and accept a position to which his recent accomplishment entitles him; but why, as the only Democratic governor from Maryland to Canada, and from Rhode Island to Nevada, should he not be entitled to the nomination for the Presidency, instead of the Vice Presidency?

Heitfeld's Scheme.

The Hon. Henry Heitfeld, of Idaho, retires from the Senate, of which he has been a worthy member, on the fourth of next March, but does not abandon hope. A mistaken notion on the part of the people of his State that they should have another to represent Idaho in the upper body of the National Legislature is the cause of his retirement. Senator Heitfeld intends to correct that impression, and will spend the next six years in an effort to do so. He expects to start out early upon a campaign of education to teach the people the error of their way, and to win them back to Democracy. In addition he has an ingenious plan which he purposes to set at work to redeem Idaho, and turn it again into the list of Democratic States. It is his intention to launch a colonization scheme, selecting desirable immigrants, and inducing them to locate in the fertile valleys of Idaho, and to then instruct them in the doctrines of Democracy, so that when they shall have attained their citizenship they will know how to vote right. In this way, in his opinion, the State will be benefitted, and besides the Democracy will regain a sufficient number of recruits to regain power at the end of five or six years. Then he hopes that his party may see fit to return him to the Senate.

Joy Will Contest.

The announcement that the Hon. Charles P. Joy will contest the election which furnished a successor to his seat in Congress will enable an election committee to make an investigation of what was a most interesting struggle. This investigation should be closely watched by the makers of comic opera, for it is certain to develop a political tangle good enough for any stage and entirely too good to be buried in the conventional Congressional reports. In the early stages of this campaign the Hon. John T. Hunt, the Democratic candidate, was an entirely acceptable opponent to Representative Joy. In the Eleventh district of Missouri it seemed entirely feasible to defeat a labor agitator for Congress. Mr. Joy's friends who were looking out for his campaign were exceedingly well pleased.

An Amazing Power.

Suddenly, on the eve of election, Mr. Hunt developed the most amazing strength. The word passed along the line that Mr. Joy would go down to defeat because the Democrats were making extraordinary efforts to carry all tickets in his district. Mr. Joy certainly feels that "extraordinary efforts" were made. In one polling precinct two men voted who had gone on from Washington for the purpose. They were employes in one of the departments here and a fair conjecture is that Mr. Joy paid their expenses home. It is an admitted fact that he arranged for their journey. When the vote was announced it was to be noted that Mr. Joy did not have a single vote in this precinct.

THE NEW DIPLOMACY.

Sir Edmund Monson on the Transformation Effected in the Diplomatic Service.

(From the New York Evening Post.)

At the annual dinner of the British chamber of commerce in Paris the other evening the British ambassador to France, Sir Edmund Monson, made a most interesting speech on the old and the new diplomacy. His early studies, he said, had given him no idea of the transformation which had been effected in the service. He learned, of course, that the principles and practice of the art of diplomacy in the middle of the nineteenth century were widely different from those rendered notorious and illustrious by such masters of the craft as Machiavelli, Richelieu, and Mazarin, as Renard at the court of Queen Mary, or even, to come to much later times, as Lord Malmesbury at that of Catherine II of Russia.

But he never doubted that personal intrigue, personal influence, and possibly personal unscrupulousness were still potent factors in the management of international concerns, and that there still existed in the field of diplomacy a wide scope for those who trusted to the employment of their own personal qualities for success. Although the old doctrine of diplomacy, that it was base to lie for one's self, venial to lie for one's friend, but a duty under some circumstances to lie for one's sovereign and country, had long been exploded, he still believed in the prevalence of secret diplomacy and in the possibility that the real direction of the foreign policy of a country was centered in the hands of a few individuals whose mysterious actions and influence remained unsuspected by the public.

It took some experience to dispel all these notions, but he soon found that the importance of the ambassador, arising in old days from the absence or scantiness of means of information about foreign countries and the characters of people at a distance, had been seriously impaired by the invention of the railroad, the telegraph, and the all-pervading newspaper correspondent. The functions of the diplomatic representative in collecting information had been superseded.

Under the altered conditions of modern life, few political secrets were to be picked up in society, and the collection of all intelligence accessible to the public had become the business of professional journalists, whose accuracy and dispatch, especially in recent years, have become so remarkable that diplomatists can no longer attempt to cope with them on the ground which they have made their own.

It was to the press that the change in the character of diplomacy was largely due. Diplomatists could not compete with journalists in the daily transmission of local and special intelligence, and many of the latter had still further invaded the fields of diplomacy by supplying their own comments upon current political events or official utterances and actions. Thus it had come to pass that diplomacy had become the intimate associate, if not the handmaid, of commercial progress, and that the new duties of diplomatists were largely politico-commercial. It was not always, unfortunately, that even those could be discharged to the satisfaction of everybody.